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Peonies



The
World's
Best
Varieties

1924

NORTH BROOK
GARDENS
GLENCOE, ILLINOIS. PAUL L. BATTEY, PROP.

Announcement to Lovers of Flowers



It will be of interest to lovers of flowers, particularly peonies, to learn that the Peterson Nursery of Chicago, one of the oldest and best known growers of this favorite flower in the country, has given place to the ever encroaching City for new homes, and this long established business, so ably maintained for two generations, will now become a matter of history. Due to his retirement, we have purchased from Mr. William A. Peterson, proprietor of the Peterson Nursery, all remaining and a large part of his peony stock, together with his entire mailing and customer lists, good will, and cuts and forms for continuing his "Master List."

Our purchase includes quantities of all of the best varieties and as we must remove this stock next fall, we will be able in September to supply fine healthy plants direct from the Peterson Nursery where they are now growing.

Last fall we purchased from Mr. Peterson (he having advised us of his intention to retire) several thousands plants in all of the recognized varieties, including the taking over of large importations from France and Holland, of the newer kinds.

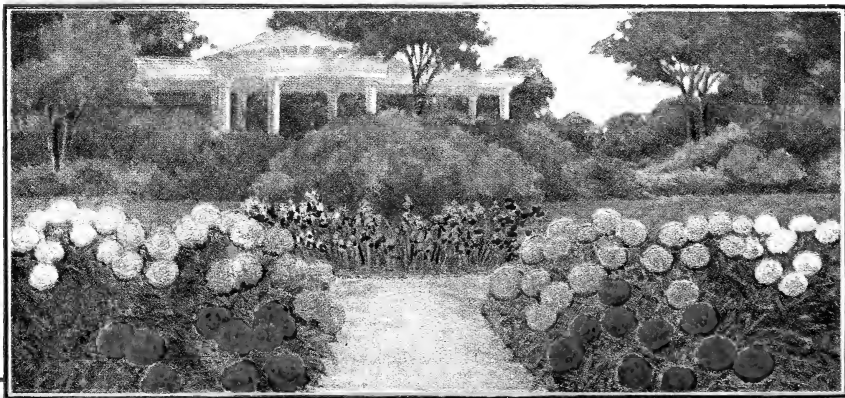
Peterson's Peonies have been noted for their vigor, floriferousness, coloring and fragrance. Those who know the quality of Mr. Peterson's plants will appreciate this opportunity.

All roots furnished will be under our 3 for 1 guarantee (formerly made by Peterson Nursery and which we shall continue on exactly the same basis.) Our unique guarantee states plainly—"We will replace with three, any plant blooming untrue to description."

Exclusive of our large purchases from Mr. Peterson, we have many thousands of peonies, all of the finest varieties, growing at our place twenty miles north of Chicago, where the soil conditions are ideal and where we have ample acreage for proper rotation and the best of cultural methods. Divisions are made from two and three year old plants, thus insuring maximum vitality and vigor, and constant selection of free blooming plants is given conscientious attention.

Trustworthy stock may be depended upon from Northbrook Gardens.

Paul L. Battey





Peony Culture



The Peony is a hardy plant—sure to grow when properly planted and is easily cared for.

September planting gives best assurance of blooming and adds at least twenty percent to the strength of the plants, owing to the formation of new rootlets before freezing down. Deep, rich, well drained soil and abundant sunshine are effective aids to Peony culture.

Before planting, a large quantity of well rotted manure (preferably pigeon, sheep or cow manure) should be worked in, and in the fall apply a mulch without covering the tops of the crowns or touching the stems.

For permanent planting, set the plants from three to four feet apart with only two inches of ground above the eyes.

Water freely during the blooming season and also toward the end of August to make large eyes for the following year.

To obtain large flowers for exhibition purposes remove all lateral buds when as large as a pea, leaving only the terminal bud to develop. Remember that typical blooms are sometimes not produced for a year or two after planting.

An inconspicuous wire support is desirable during the blooming period, to prevent heavy rains from beating down the flowers.

Avoid injury to plants when picking the blooms by leaving at least one or two lateral leaves below the cutting, as the leaves are the lungs of the plant, very essential to its future health.

To force blooms on a old plant that produces stalks instead of buds, in September scratch back the soil and cut off half the eyes.

In November remove the faded foliage so that it will not interfere with next year's shoots.

PEONY FRAGRANCE

One of the most delightful things about the peony is its delicate fragrance, and this combined with its exquisite beauty makes it one of the grandest flowers to be found in any garden. We have always appreciated the value of fragrance in peonies, and have kept this in mind in building up our collection. In the description we have noted the relative degree of fragrance, which varies with different varieties, running from that of cinnamon to the rose and hyacinth. Single peonies and those with some stamens have the pollen fragrance.

PEONY COLLECTIONS

DOUBLE

- A—10 2-eye plants our selection of a comprehensive collection from this list for. \$ 6.50
 B—10 3 to 5-eye plants our selection of a comprehensive collection from this list for 11.00
 C—One each 2-eye plants of three wonderful varieties—Red, Pink and White.
 Rating 8.8 to 9.1 inclusive. Karl Rosenfield, Marie Crouse, Frances Willard.. 4.00

JAPANESE AND SINGLE

- D—One each 2-eye plants of three outstanding varieties—Red, Pink and White.
 Rating 8.5 to 8.9 inclusive. Mikado, Pride of Langport, Marguerite Dessert.. 10.00

Of the varieties rated by the American Peony Society at 8.8 and up, we offer and here list forty-eight, beginning with the highest ballot.

9.9	Le Cygne.....	Mid. W.	9.0	Longfellow.....	Mid. R.
9.9	Mrs. Edward Harding.....	Lat. W.	9.0	Raoul Dessert.....	Mid. D. P.
9.8	Therese.....	Ear. L. P.	8.9	Mme. Emile Lemoine.....	Mid. W.
9.8	Kelway's Glorious.....	Mid. W.	8.9	Marie Crousse.....	Mid. L. P.
9.7	Solange.....	Lat. W.	8.9	Pleas' Jubilee.....	Ear. W.
9.4	Tourangelles.....	Lat. W.	8.9	Georgiana Shaylor.....	Mid. L. P.
9.4	Edwin C. Shaw.....	Mid. D. P.	8.9	Pride of Langport.....	Sem. P.
9.4	Mme. Jules Dessert.....	Mid. W.	8.9	Rosette.....	Ear. L. P.
9.4	Mary W. Shaylor.....	Lat. L. P.	8.9	Jeannot.....	Lat. L. P.
9.4	President Wilson.....	Lat. L. P.	8.8	Souv. de Louis Bigot.....	Mid. L. P.
9.3	Festiva Maxima.....	Ear. W.	8.8	Grandiflora.....	Lat. L. P.
9.3	Walter Faxon.....	Mid. D. P.	8.8	M. Martin Cahuzac.....	Ear. R.
9.2	M. Jules Elie.....	Ear. D. P.	8.8	Karl Rosenfield.....	Mid. R.
9.2	E. B. Browning.....	Lat. W.	8.8	Alsace Lorraine.....	Lat. W.
9.2	Philippe Rivoire.....	Lat. R.	8.8	Enchantresse.....	Lat. W.
9.2	La Fee.....	Ear. D. P.	8.8	Richard Carvel.....	Ear. R.
9.1	Lady A. Duff.....	Ear. W.	8.8	Kelway's Queen.....	Mid. L. P.
9.1	Martha Bulloch.....	Lat. D. P.	8.8	Laura Dessert.....	Mid. W.
9.1	Frances Willard.....	Lat. W.	8.8	Phoebe Carey.....	Lat. L. P.
9.1	Nymphæa.....	Sem. W.	8.8	Ginette.....	Ear. L. P.
9.1	Secretary Fewkes.....	Lat. W.	8.8	Standard Bearer.....	Ear. D. P.
9.0	Baroness Schroeder.....	Lat. W.	8.8	Phyllis Kelway.....	Lat. L. P.
9.0	Sarah Bernhardt.....	Mid. D. P.	8.8	Madame Gaudichau.....	Mid. R.
9.0	La France.....	Lat. D. P.	8.8	Pride of Essex.....	Mid. L. P.

Season 1924

*Selections
are Easily
and
Intelligently
Made
by the Use
of*

**NORTHBROOK
GARDENS' MAS-
TER LIST of Peonies.**
This illustration indicates a simple and safe method by the use of pennies, kernels of corn or any small article put upon the selection you make. The hand shown is in the act of putting on the twelfth selection, making a splendid combination for all practical purposes.

**NORTHBROOK
GARDENS'
MASTER LIST**
of Peonies
shown herein. It
is intended to
Easily unfold
upon a table,
where the entire
schedule repre-
senting the four
general divisions of
color, each with its
three periods of bloom-
ing, and arranging the
the different varieties
according to the pur-
chase price, beginning
with the lowest.

NORTHBROOK GARDENS has not only made it possible for you to secure dependable stock, but has made it easy for you to make your selection.

**When advice is needed,
write us.**



A Bit of Peony History



The "Master List" is the result of a long and painstaking research on the part of Mr. Wm. A. Peterson of Chicago, Ill. Through many years of testing and elimination at the Peterson Nursery, certain varieties with outstanding qualities were given a place in the list.

These have vigorous constitutions, strong, straight stems, are free blooming with attractive buds, have large flowers which continue in bloom for a long time and hold their color well. Fragrant varieties were given a preference.

It is a notable fact that Mr. Peterson's judgment in the selection of choice varieties was confirmed time after time as the American Peony Society sent out official ratings. The sorts that proved worthy of a place in the "Master List," with but few exceptions, are among those of the highest ballot.

Our confidence in the judgment of Mr. Peterson and our faith in the "Master List" is so secure from our personal experience over a period of years that we are continuing it almost without change.

The points of excellence taken into consideration in selections are Free Blooming, Strong Stems, Color, Fullness, Fragrance, Keeping Qualities, and Freedom from Blight. Due regard has been given to the extension of the blooming period.



The remarkable feature of the list is to find all the best sorts offered and practically none of the mediocre kinds to wade through in making a selection. Also there is a well-balanced price list to meet the requirements of purchasers of every size pocketbook.





Terms and Shipping Season



TERMS

Prompt attention is given to orders from both old and new customers. It is our purpose to give the largest measure of satisfaction in every transaction. New customers are requested to accompany orders with satisfactory references. To avoid delay send cash with order.

Owing to the reduced prices made in this list no additional discounts are allowed. We always allow a generous interpretation of size of roots.

Prices in this retail list include packing and TRANSPORTATION CHARGES PREPAID on all orders for \$2.00 or more. On smaller orders please add postage unless you wish the goods sent by express, charges collect.

Great care is exercised in packing for shipment, to insure safest delivery.

When shipping instructions are not given we are careful to use our own best judgment.

TO THE TRADE: Ask for wholesale list.

SHIPPING SEASON

We begin filling Peony orders about the first of September. Any Peony is much surer to bloom and will be twenty percent stronger if moved in September, so that new rootlets may form before freezing down.

We do not ship Peony roots in the spring.

To preserve the names make a diagram on our bill with each item numbered as planted.

We will gladly give any sincere lover of Peonies the benefit of our years of experience in answer to any inquiry for information desired when explained in detail. This service is intended to help our customers produce best results.

QUALITY AND SIZE OF PLANTS

We offer two sizes of plants of first quality, grown under ideal conditions for peonies and only strong roots in respective sizes will be shipped—PLANTS FULL OF PEP.

Two-Eye BALANCED Root Division:

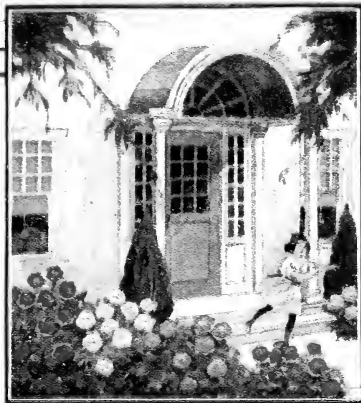
This is a division with ample crown material, two well-developed buds (or eyes) and a root system balancing the crown, giving a vigorous plant needing no coddling to produce strong satisfactory growth.

Three to Five-Eye STANDARD Root Division:

This is the old time large division giving earlier maturity.

Two and three year plants, for immediate effect, can be furnished in some varieties—special prices upon application.

The Home Beautiful



Home knows no warmer welcome than the flower border approach to its doorway. What is there that is more important in home beautification and decoration than the Peony? Flowers are the smiles of nature in its happiest mood, greeting the dweller, the guest and the stranger alike with their friendly radiance. Where flowers are

there is love, for love feeds on flowers and the happy thoughts conceived in flowers.

Peerless among home flowers is the Peony, and it may be had in almost endless variety. Being a perfectly hardy perennial, requiring very little care after planting, it is especially desirable for home and garden ornamentation. The surpassing beauty of the Peony is most effectively displayed when planted to form a border for lawn, fountain, walk or driveway. An appropriate background of thick shrubbery brings forth the utmost loveliness of their exquisite colorings.

The home beautiful — can it be without flowers? The very thought suggests flowers. Human art enhanced with a divine artistry.

No home is so modest, no mansion so complete, but that it may be made more beautiful and attractive with the Peony.



Color Classification



There is no limit to the variety of gorgeous color effects obtainable by the judicious selection from Northbrook Gardens Master List of Peonies. A combination of harmonious colors is what the real flower fancier is striving for.

Our simple directions printed elsewhere in this booklet furnish a well worked out plan enabling anyone to make intelligent selection in their true color relationship. All double Peonies admit of being divided into four dominant colors as shown in this illustration.

The lasting pleasure and satisfaction to be derived from proper selection will more than repay you for the few moments you spend in acquainting yourself with our carefully prepared selection suggestions.

There is practically no limit in the number of attractive combinations the unfettered imagination will suggest. Color and form are yours to arrange as your fancy directs. Remember, your garden is an expression of your individuality —“Say it with Flowers” is more than an empty phrase.

No one knows the enthralling fascination of devising original effects in the planting of Peonies except those who have experienced the joy of beholding their visions materialized.

For the beginner, conventional precedent is the best guide. It will keep him from error and assure him of gratifying results from the start. Safety in originality comes only from experience.

Reasonable acquaintance with the outstanding characteristics of the Peony is essential. Study the description of the several varieties printed elsewhere in this book. Note especially their color and size. Be content with the more simple but good formations and color combinations the first season.

Mass formations, involving more intricate color combinations, provide an enticing subject for next year's study.

It will be a pleasure for us to aid you in your selection and plantings.



Northbrook Gardens

What and Where It Is

Northbrook Gardens is the outgrowth of a life-long love for flowers, and a keen interest in their culture, particularly peonies. For many years, we have been collecting, studying and selecting the varieties of outstanding characteristics. Our specimen collection now numbers some four hundred kinds. Many of these however, we do not consider of sufficient value to include in the Master List, although some of them have a useful place, not measured by the scheme of rating adopted by the Peony Society. These are of interest only to hybridizers, or cut flower growers.



It is our intention to continue adding to our collection, the newer varieties as they are available, studying, acquiring all possible information as to results in other parts of the country, selecting, and eliminating them with the single purpose of keeping our Master List up to date, but including only the varieties with real merit. Our peonies are grown with painstaking care in a deep black clay loam soil ideally adapted to and maintained for their growth. Peony plantings are rotated with other crops, thus insuring thoroughly healthy conditions. Particular attention is given to keeping varieties true to name, all practicable precautions being taken to guard against mixing, throughout production and shipment. This briefly outlines what the Northbrook Gardens has to offer to discriminating lovers of flowers. It explains their assurance of perfect safety in making this unusual guarantee with every delivery:



"We will replace with three, every plant blooming untrue to description." This is a three-to-one square deal; satisfied customers is the object.

Northbrook Gardens is located five miles due west of Glencoe, Illinois, on the Dundee concrete road, (Glencoe is a suburb of Chicago, lying twenty miles north on Lake Michigan). Our customers have the distinct advantage of Chicago's central location and extensive shipping facilities, making all points in every direction easily accessible.

Northbrook Gardens is specialized to peony service.

